

Message Text

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ORIGIN L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CPR-01 SCSE-00 SCA-01 INR-07

SY-05 AGR-10 A-01 SS-15 /054 R

DRAFTED BY L/M:HFSHAMWELL:MFM

APPROVED BY L/M:KEMALMBORG

L/ARA - (INFO)

ARA/MEX - (INFO)

S/CPR - (INFO)

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R 230736Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS STATE 098642

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: P4, CPRS

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY OF EMBASSY AND OTHER U.S.
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN MEXICO

REF: MEXICO 3126

1. REFTEL DESCRIBED TWO SEPARATE INCIDENTS IN WHICH USG
EMPLOYEES HAD BEEN DETAINED BY MEXICAN POLICE AND DENIED
FREEDOM PENDING OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION OF INCIDENTS IN WHICH
THEY WERE INVOLVED. IN ONE CASE A MARINE GUARD, WHO HAS
STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEE OF EMBASSY,
WAS DENIED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY ON THE GROUND THAT THE
ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE WAS ENGAGED WERE OF A NON-OFFICIAL
CHARACTER. IN THE OTHER CASE A SCREWWORM OFFICIAL, NOT CON-
NECTED WITH THE EMBASSY, WAS DENIED DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY ON
THE GROUND THAT HE IS NOT COVERED BY THE VIENNA CONVENTION
ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. EMBASSY REQUESTED DEPARTMENT'S
INTERPRETATION OF APPLICABLE LAW WITH A VIEW TOWARDS RE-
SPONDING TO MEXICAN AUTHORITIES WITH INSISTENCE UPON
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RECOGNITION OF DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY STATUS WHERE WARRANTED.

2. IN CASE INVOLVING MARINE SECURITY GUARD, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT A PERSON ENJOYING STATUS OF ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL MEMBER OF THE MISSION IS ENTITLED TO FULL

IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL JURISDICTION BY VIRTUE OF ARTICLE 37(2) AND ARTICLE 31(1) OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION. IT IS NOTED IN THIS REGARD THAT A MEMBER OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF ENJOYS FULL BENEFITS OF ARTICLE 29 OF THE CONVENTION, UNDER WHICH A DIPLOMATIC AGENT IS IMMUNE FROM ANY FORM OF ARREST OR DETENTION. THE ONLY LIMITATION ON THE IMMUNITY OF AN ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBER, VIS A VIS DIPLOMATIC AGENT, RELATES TO THE SCOPE OF IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION. IN THE CASE OF NON-OFFICIAL ACTS, ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL STAFF MEMBERS ENJOY NO IMMUNITY FROM SUCH CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ISSUE IN THE MSG CASE IS THE INFRINGEMENT OF THE INVIOABILITY OF PERSON WHICH HE ENJOYS UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. WITH RESPECT TO THE SCREWORM OFFICIAL, WHO IS NOT LISTED AS A MEMBER OF THE DIPLOMATIC MISSION STAFF, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT SEEMS TO BE CLEARLY WITHIN ITS RIGHTS IN REFUSING TO RECOGNIZE DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY STATUS. NEVERTHELESS, IN ORDER FOR DEPARTMENT TO DETERMINE WHETHER ANYTHING IN THE U.S.-MEXICO CONSULAR TREATY OF 1943 WOULD EXTEND ANY IMMUNITIES TO A PERSON IN THIS CATEGORY, IT WILL BE NECESSARY FOR DEPARTMENT TO BE INFORMED OF THE SPECIFIC ARTICLES OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION WHICH HAVE BEEN EXTENDED TO SCREWORM OFFICIALS UNDER THE AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO APPLICABLE TO SUCH PERSONS. SISCO

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES, CONSULAR AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE098642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: HFSHAMWELL:MFM
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760154-0930
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760428/aaaaaxko.tel
Line Count: 92
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN L
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 3126
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchant0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 AUG 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <16 DEC 2004 by buchant0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY OF EMBASSY AND OTHER U.S. GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN MEXICO
TAGS: CPRS, CGEN, US, MX
To: MEXICO
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006